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pointments from the secretary numbered 934, an increase of 62.

### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science begins its annual meeting at Pittsburgh on the day of issue of the present number of *SCIENCE*. The address of the retiring president, Dr. Charles R. Van Hise is given this evening, his subject being "Economic Effects of the World War in the United States." It is expected that the meeting of the association and of the national societies meeting at the same time will be smaller than usual, and that scientific problems of national concern at the present time will occupy most of the programs. Careful consideration was given to the desirability of holding the meeting. It was decided that the service it could render to science and the nation was far greater than any drawbacks. This was the opinion both of scientific men and of the officers of the government who were consulted.

SIR ARCHIBALD GEIKIE, who has long been a correspondent of the Paris Academy of Sciences, has now been elected an associate member of the academy.

DR. WILLIAM W. KEEN, of Philadelphia, has declined the renomination of president of the American Philosophical Society, after serving ten years in that capacity.

DR. ALEXIS CARREL, having been detained in America by official duties, the Harben lectures he was to have delivered in England at the end of this month have been postponed.

GILBERT N. LEWIS, professor of physical chemistry and dean of the college of chemistry in the University of California, has been granted leave of absence for the half year beginning January 1, 1918, to serve as major in the Ordnance Department of the U. S. Army. He is to go at once to France.

MR. CHARLES S. WILSON, state commissioner of agriculture of New York, has been reappointed to that office by the newly organized Council of Farms and Markets at Albany. His original appointment was made

almost three years ago by the governor. Mr. Wilson was then professor of pomology in the State College of Agriculture at Cornell.

DR. FRANK C. HAMMOND has been appointed a member of the Philadelphia Board of Health to serve during the absence in France of Dr. Alexander C. Abbott.

A NUMBER of additional members of the University of California faculty have entered Army service, including Joel H. Hildebrand, associate professor of chemistry, now a captain in the Ordnance Department; Dr. A. L. Fisher, assistant in orthopedic surgery, now a captain in the U. S. Medical Reserve, attached to Base Hospital No. 30; and W. F. Hamilton, A. R. Kellogg, and J. B. Rogers, of the department of zoology, now in the Forestry Reserves.

F. G. TUCKER, assistant professor of physics at the State College of Washington, has been granted leave of absence to take up his duties as second lieutenant in the U. S. Coast artillery.

THE council of the Royal Meteorological Society has awarded Dr. H. R. Mill the Symons gold medal for 1918 "for distinguished work in connection with meteorological science."

THE following letter has been received by the Duke of Connaught, President of the Royal Society of Arts from Mr. Orville Wright, of Dayton, Ohio.

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your Royal Highness's letter and the Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts, which were forwarded to me through the British Ambassador at Washington. I wish to express my appreciation of the honor conferred upon me by the Royal Society of Arts as a recognition of the work of my brother Wilbur and myself towards the solution of the problem of flight. I appreciate with the utmost gratification the honor of being placed by your society among such men as those to whom this coveted medal has been awarded in years past.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK STARR, of the department of sociology and anthropology at the University of Chicago, who has been in the Orient for the past year on leave of absence, will renew his work at the university with the winter quarter, giving courses in prehistoric

archeology and general anthropology. Professor Starr has been conducting special anthropological investigations in Korea and has published a book of some five hundred pages in Japanese. He has also published a paper on "Korean Coin Charms," which is issued by the Korean branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. Before leaving Japan Professor Starr gave two public addresses, one before the Tokyo Anthropological Society and one before the Asiatic Society of Japan.

PROFESSOR CHARLES BASKERVILLE, professor of chemistry and director of laboratories of the College of the City of New York, delivered a lecture at the Royal Canadian Institute, Toronto, Canada, on December 8, the subject being, The Hydrogenation of Vegetable Oils.

DR. E. O. HOVEY, of the American Museum of Natural History, delivered a public address on "Two years in the far North" at Syracuse University on December 7, under the auspices of the Sigma Xi Society.

PROFESSOR O. D. VON ENGELN, of Cornell University, addressed the Physiographers' Club of Columbia University on November 23 on "Types of Alaskan glaciers and features of the associated deposits."

SIR ARTHUR NEWSHOLME gave this year the Lady Priestley Memorial Lecture of the National Health Society. The subject was "The child and the home."

DR. LOUIS POPE GRATACAP, for the last twenty-seven years curator of mineralogy and a member of the staff of the American Museum of Natural History for forty-one years, died at New Brighton on December 19, aged sixty-seven years.

DR. CHARLES M. MANSFIELD, scientific assistant in the Biochemic Division of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, died at his home in Washington, D. C., on December 17. Dr. Mansfield was an accomplished photographer and had contributed several articles to the photographic journals.

THE death is announced at the age of 43, of Dr. J. Rambousek, professor of factory hygiene, and chief state health officer, Prague.

LIEUT. CYRIL GREEN, known for his work in plant ecology and the physiological anatomy of water plants, was killed on the Palestine front early in November. He had been a member of the staff of the department of botany of the University College, London. Since the outbreak of the war he had been appointed head of the department of botany in the new Welsh National Museum at Cardiff, a position which was to have been held open for him until the conclusion of hostilities.

THE death is announced on November 4 of M. R. Nichéls, professor of geology in the University of Nancy.

THE Society of American Bacteriologists will hold its annual meeting in Washington, D. C., on December 27, 28 and 29. The morning and afternoon sessions will be held in the new National Museum. The president is Dr. Leo F. Rettger, New Haven, Conn.; the secretary, Dr. A. Parker Hitchens, Glenolden, Pa.

At their recent annual meeting the board of trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington accepted from Mrs. E. H. Harriman the gift of the Eugenics Record Office at Cold Spring Harbor. This gift comprises about 80 acres of land, the office building with its records and other contents, the large residence and other buildings. In addition Mrs. Harriman has given to the trustees of the institution securities yielding an annual income of \$12,000, as a fund for the office. The total valuation of the gift is about half a million dollars. The transfer has been made by Mrs. Harriman in order to ensure the permanent continuation of the work of the Eugenics Record Office. Except that the former board of scientific directors is dissolved the immediate management and personnel of the office have not been affected by the transfer.

THE regular monthly meeting of the California Academy of Sciences was held on December 19, when a lecture was given by Professor J. C. Bradley, Cornell University, on "The Okefinokee" (illustrated). Following the lecture Dr. Barton W. Evermann spoke

briefly concerning the establishment of Federal Fisheries Experiment Stations. The course of popular scientific lectures is being continued on Sunday afternoons at 3 o'clock in the auditorium of the Museum in Golden Gate Park. Announcements are made as follows:

December 16, The growth and transformation of insects (illustrated): Professor E. O. Essig, College of Agriculture, University of California.

December 23, The distribution of plants in California (illustrated): Professor Douglas Campbell, Department of Botany, Stanford University.

December 30, A fiesta of Indian summer: Professor C. L. Edwards, Director of Nature Study, Los Angeles Schools.

January 6, Midwinter birds of Golden Gate Park (illustrated): Professor Joseph Grinnell, Director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California.

January 13, Fish and game in California (illustrated by motion pictures): Dr. H. C. Bryant, Game Expert, California Fish and Game Commission.

THE next meeting of the Botanical Society of Washington will be held at the Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C., January 3, 1918. Abstracts of the papers presented will be published in the *Journal* of the Washington Academy of Sciences. The program is as follows:

The botany and economics of the tribe Phaseoleæ, C. V. Piper.

Morphological characters and food value of soy-bean varieties, W. J. Morse.

Fermented soy-bean products, Dr. Chas. Thom.

The American species of the genus *Phaseolus*, Dr. D. N. Shoemaker.

THE *Journal of the British Medical Association* reports that at a meeting of the Société Internationale de Chirurgie in Paris on November 3, 1917, which was attended by delegates from Belgium, France, Great Britain, Serbia, and the United States, it was resolved to dissolve the society after the publication of the volume of *Transactions* of the meeting held in New York on April 14, 1914. It was

further resolved that, should there be any assets after the publication of this volume, the money shall be divided *pro rata* amongst the members, so that each member of the Germano-Austrian group shall receive his share, but that the shares belonging to members of other nations shall be retained and applied to some object of scientific reparation in Belgium. The meeting then determined that a new society shall be formed after the war on a basis similar to that of the Société Internationale de Chirurgie. It will be called the Société Interalliée de Chirurgie, but will be open also to such surgeons of neutral countries as may be nominated for election by the general committee.

A NEW journal of neurology and psychiatry in German, French and Italian has recently appeared under the direction of C. Von Monakow, professor of neurology in the University of Zurich, with the collaboration of all the well known Swiss neurologists and psychiatrists. The assistant editors in neurology are Dr. Bing (Basel), Dr. Minkowski (Zurich), and Dr. Naville (Geneva); in psychiatry, Professor Dr. Weber (Geneva) and Professor Dr. Maier (Zurich).

DR. F. W. CLARKE, chairman of the International Committee on Atomic Weights, writes in the *Journal* of the American Chemical Society that on account of the difficulties of correspondence between its members, due to the war, the International Committee on Atomic Weights has decided to make no full report for 1918. Although a good number of new determinations have been published during the past year, none of them seems to demand any immediate change in the table for 1917. That table, therefore, may stand as official during the year 1918.

THE Science Club of the University of Oregon recently elected the following officers for the ensuing year: *President*, Dr. W. D. Smith, of the department of geology; *Secretary*, Dr. C. H. Edmondson, of the department of zoology. The following program has been arranged, for the year:

November.—“Symposium on research,” Professor O. F. Stafford, *chairman*.

December.—“Some research among northwest Indians,” Mr. Frank Hall, curator, Washington State Museum, University of Washington.

January.—“The relation of physical to mental growth,” Dr. B. W. DeBusk.

February.—“Thermo-electric properties of alloys,” Dr. A. E. Caswell.

March.—“Investigations relating to the conservation and utilization of our fish resources,” Professor H. B. Torrey, Reed College.

April.—“A rational map of Europe,” Dr. Rebec.

May.—“Biologic investigations in southern California,” Mr. Shelton.

THE chief signal officer requests that help be given to the Signal Corps of the army to obtain lenses enough for cameras for the fleet of observation airplanes now being built. The need is immediate and of great importance; the airplanes are the eyes of the army and the camera lenses are the pupils of those eyes. German lenses can no longer be bought in the open market. England met this difficulty in the earlier stages of the war by requiring lens owners to register lenses and requisitioning those needed. The Bureau of Standards of the United States Department of Commerce is now perfecting a substitute for the German “crown barium” glass used for lenses and will later be able to meet the needs, and special lenses are being designed for this work. The situation now, however, is that, with airplanes soon to be ready for service, suitable lenses can not be bought. Hundreds are needed at once. Possessors of the required types are urged to enlist their lenses in the army. They are asked immediately to notify the photographic division of the Signal Corps, United States Army, Mills Building Annex, Washington, D. C., of lenses of the following descriptions which they are willing to sell, stating price asked: Tessar anastigmat lenses, made by Carl Zeiss, Jena, of a working aperture of F. 3.5 or F. 4.5 from  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 20 inches focal length. Bausch & Lomb Zeiss tessars, F. 4.5, from  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 20 inches focal length. Voigtlander Heliar anastigmat lenses, F. 4.5,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 20 inches focal length.

SECRETARY LANE, of the department of the interior, on August 16, formally authorized the

establishment of a new mining experiment station under the jurisdiction of the school of mines at the University of Minnesota. Minnesota is one of two institutions to be so designated. The other bureau was established at Columbus, Ohio, the recognized center of the clay-working industries of the United States. In recommending the University of Minnesota to Secretary Lane for the site of one of the proposed stations, Director Manning, of the bureau, said that at the present rate of production the high grade ores of Minnesota will become almost exhausted the next thirty years and it will be the duty of the bureau to endeavor to show the way to utilize the huge deposits of low-grade ores if the industry is to continue to prosper. The station is to work in a cooperative way with the University of Minnesota, an agreement to that effect having been signed by both parties.

DURING the past summer, Professor C. H. Edmondson, of the department of zoology of the University of Oregon, has been conducting a survey of the shellfish resources of the northwest coast, under the direction of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. The survey is a part of the general conservation of food campaign undertaken by the federal government. In the course of the work the coast of Oregon has been traversed from about five miles south of Bandon to the mouth of the Columbia River and the Washington coast north to Gray's Harbor. All the important bays and inlets were visited and the species and relative abundance of the edible clams noted. The purpose of the survey, however, is not merely to determine the location of the edible shellfish, but to aid in all possible ways the increase of this type of food supply and to encourage the general public to make greater use of clams and mussels as a partial substitute for the higher priced meats. Few realize the abundance of food represented by the immense quantities of shellfish distributed along this coast or how cheaply edible clams may be obtained from the towns of Marshfield, Florence, Newport or Tillamook. In view of the fact that little is known of the life history of any of these shellfish of our coast, Professor

Edmondson has initiated experimental work at Florence, Newport and Tillamook for the purpose of determining the rapidity of growth, the age, the spawning season and the conditions under which certain of the edible clams best thrive. These experiments will be carried on throughout the year or until satisfactory results are obtained.

A QUESTIONNAIRE was recently circulated among the members of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries of Great Britain for the purpose of obtaining opinions in regard to the adoption of a decimal system of coinage in the United Kingdom, and the substitution of the metric system for the existing United Kingdom weights and measures. Of the replies received 85 per cent. considered that a change to a decimal system of coinage would be favorable to the business in which they were engaged, and 66 per cent. favored a £1 basis of coinage in preference to the "Imperial Crown" or dollar basis. In regard to weights and measures, 86 per cent. favored a change to the metric system, 53 per cent. of whom already used that system in their business. One member expressed the opinion that a strong commission of able men should be asked to decide whether the continental system, which was forced upon countries at a time when violence, rather than reason, prevailed, had been really satisfactory.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

IN honor to Andrew S. Hallidie, inventor of the use of the cable railway for passenger traffic in cities, who was a regent of the University of California from 1878 to 1900, the regents of the university have given the name "Hallidie Building" to a building which they are now erecting in San Francisco as an investment of University endowment funds.

W. J. SPILLMAN, chief of the office of farm management, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has accepted the deanship of the newly created college of agriculture at the State College of Washington. He will take up his new duties April 1, 1918, after he has com-

pleted a survey of the farm labor situation in the United States, upon which he is engaged as an emergency war measure.

A DEPARTMENT of plant pathology has been created by the regents of the State College of Washington, Dr. F. D. Heald, formerly professor of plant pathology, has been made head.

PROFESSOR F. L. WASHBURN of the University of Minnesota has been relieved of his present position in the Agricultural College and station and as state entomologist, and has been given the title of professor of economic vertebrate zoology, to take effect on February 5.

DR. A. L. TATUM, professor of pharmacology in the University of South Dakota, has been appointed assistant professor of pharmacology and physiology in the University of Chicago.

MR. ROY RICHARD DENSLOW, assistant tutor in the department of chemistry, College of the City of New York, has been appointed instructor in Smith College.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE PITTSBURGH MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

[The following letter was delayed in the mails and reached SCIENCE just too late for publication in the last number.]

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE:

WHEN the American Association for the Advancement of Science and all similar societies planned their winter meetings, the present situation could not have been foreseen. We had not even entered the war, and did not dream of a congestion of transportation such as now exists. When the present situation had developed, it was (in the opinion of a majority of the committee having power) too late to postpone our meeting.

Transportation is now so greatly overtaxed that necessities of life can barely be carried; the railways should be spared every extra burden. Great simultaneous pilgrimages on important trunk lines are especially to be avoided, since they demand extra trains, need-